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## Michigan Drops Intoxicated Driving Level to 0.08 BAC

*Legislation will save 500 lives and reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths*

LANSING – Legislation to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths in Michigan by dropping the “operating while intoxicated” limit from 0.10 to 0.08 bodily alcohol content (BAC) passed the state Senate today, Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, said.

“The bill to lower Michigan’s intoxicated driving level is a good step in the right direction,” Cropsey said. “Placing further restrictions on drunk driving will reduce accidents and make our roads and highways a safer place on which to travel.”

House Bill 4247 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit a person from “operating while intoxicated” if the person was under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance, or the person had a bodily alcohol content of 0.08 gram per 100 milliliters of blood.

According to the M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) website, statistics have shown a six to eight percent reduction in alcohol-related traffic deaths in states following the passage of 0.08 BAC.

The federal government passed a law in Oct. 2000 requiring states to have a 0.08 BAC per se law effective by Oct. 1, 2003, or face the withholding of 2 percent of their federal highway construction funds. States without the law by the date face the loss of an additional 2 percent of highway funds each year until 2006.

As expected

vote on the bill is expected on July 15, once concurred in the legislation will be sent to Governor Granholm, The new law will take effect Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2003.